

08-13-2007 13:44 VON -H. EITLE

+49-89-918356

P.003/008 F-249



European Patent Office
Postbus 5818
2280 HV RIJSWIJK
NETHERLANDS
Tel.: +31 70 340 2040
Fax: +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

HOFFMANN EITLE
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München
ALLEMAGNE

Copy

EPO Customer Services

Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00

Date
01.08.07

Reference 115 600 a/npo	Application No./Patent No. 06012688.5 - 1219
Applicant/Proprietor Tyco Healthcare Group LP	

Communication

The partial European search report (R. 46 EPC) is enclosed.

The applicant is informed that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention(s) already searched and for which a meaningful search can be carried out, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, in the present instance

2 search fees

within one month after notification of this communication.

The amount payable for a search fee is EUR 1000,- (OJ EPO 2006, 495).

If applicable, a European search opinion covering those invention(s) for which a search fee has been paid will then be sent together with the European search report.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

☒ Abstract

☒ Title

☐ the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

Note to the users of the automatic debiting procedure

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement No.2 to Official Journal No.01/2005.





European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent
Convention

Application Number
EP 06 01 2688

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 024 871 A (STEPHENSON MARTIN) 24 May 1977 (1977-05-24)	1,2,4-6, 9,15,16, 19,22 11-14	INV. A61L17/14
Y	* column 1, lines 10-15 * * column 2, lines 20-25,35-68 * * column 3, lines 1-18 * * column 5, lines 56-66 * * column 7, lines 47-50,58-61 *		
X	WO 00/57933 A (UNIV COLUMBIA [US]) 5 October 2000 (2000-10-05) * page 3, lines 25-30 * * page 4, lines 1-5 * * page 6, lines 10-18 * * page 7, lines 10-13 * * page 9, lines 24-26 * * page 12, lines 22-31 * * page 14, lines 23-29 * * page 17, lines 15-25 * * claim 1 *	1-7,15, 16,22	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61L
<p>LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION</p> <p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		25 July 2007	VAN DEN BULCKE, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D: document cited in the application</p> <p>L: document cited for other reasons</p> <p>A: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A: technological background</p> <p>O: non-written disclosure</p> <p>P: intermediate document</p>			

European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 06 01 2688

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 6 106 505 A (MODAK SHANTA [US] ET AL) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) * column 2, lines 43-56 * * column 3, lines 21-27 * * column 4, lines 1-11 * * column 6, lines 19-33 * * claims 1,34,38,39 * * column 7, lines 41-46 * -----	1-7,15, 16,22	
X	EP 0 499 048 A1 (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP [US]) 19 August 1992 (1992-08-19)	1,2,5,6, 8,10, 15-18,22 11-14	
Y	* page 2, lines 18-25 * * page 2, line 52 - page 3, line 9 * * page 3, lines 37-48 * * page 6, lines 32-40 * * page 7, lines 42-47 * * page 8, lines 22-25 * * claims 2,10,17 * -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	EP 0 647 452 A1 (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP [US]) 12 April 1995 (1995-04-12) * page 1, lines 23-28,45-57 * * page 2, lines 14-20,34-37,48-52 * * page 4, lines 14-21 * -----	11	

4
EPO FORM 1538 (03/02) (P04510)

European Patent
OfficeINCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET CApplication Number
EP 06 01 2688

Although claim 22 is directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body (Article 52(4) EPC), the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

European Patent
OfficeLACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 06 01 2688

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-19,22

A method comprising providing an antimicrobial multifilament suture permeated with an antimicrobial solution with an antimicrobial coating and the corresponding suture.

2. claims: 20,21

An antimicrobial composition comprising an antiseptic, a film-forming polymer and a salt of a fatty acid ester

3. claims: 23-31

A braided suture comprising a film-forming polymer and a salt of a fatty acid ester.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 06 01 2688

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

25-07-2007

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4024871	A	24-05-1977	CA 1074230 A1	25-03-1980
WO 0057933	A	05-10-2000	AU 773655 B2	03-06-2004
			AU 4062000 A	16-10-2000
			CA 2366380 A1	05-10-2000
			EP 1165155 A1	02-01-2002
			JP 2002539895 T	26-11-2002
			US 6224579 B1	01-05-2001
			US 2001010016 A1	26-07-2001
US 6106505	A	22-08-2000	AT 245039 T	15-08-2003
			AU 730158 B2	01-03-2001
			AU 1523597 A	01-08-1997
			CA 2241461 A1	17-07-1997
			DE 69629128 D1	21-08-2003
			DE 69629128 T2	03-06-2004
			EP 0874655 A1	04-11-1998
			JP 2000507842 T	27-06-2000
			US 6083208 A	04-07-2000
			WO 9725085 A1	17-07-1997
			US 5772640 A	30-06-1998
			US 6626873 B1	30-09-2003
EP 0499048	A1	19-08-1992	AU 649514 B2	26-05-1994
			AU 1033592 A	13-08-1992
			CA 2059245 A1	09-08-1992
			DE 69214314 D1	14-11-1996
			DE 69214314 T2	20-03-1997
			JP 4317655 A	09-11-1992
			US 5312642 A	17-05-1994
EP 0647452	A1	12-04-1995	CA 2133686 A1	09-04-1995
			DE 69431228 D1	02-10-2002
			DE 69431228 T2	18-04-2003

EPO FORM P0239

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/02